



**Name of Property:** Pennsylvania Railroad Depot and Baggage Room  
**City, State:** Dennison, Ohio  
**Significant Dates:** 1942-1946  
**NHL Criteria:** 1  
**NHL Theme:** *World War II and the American Home Front Theme Study*  
**Previous Recognition:** 1976; Revised 2007    National Register of Historic Places  
**National Historic Context:** VIII. World War II  
    D. The Home Front

**NHL Significance:**

- The Pennsylvania Railroad Depot and Baggage Room in Dennison, Ohio, is nationally significant as both a representation of the movement of millions of servicemen and women across the United States during World War II and the mobilization of civilians on the home front.
- Located on one of the nation's main rail lines, the Dennison train depot was a stopping point for trains transporting servicemen and women to the West Coast for service in the Pacific, to debarkation points on the East Coast for service in Europe, and, ultimately, back home from overseas.
- The only surviving station in the United States that still reflects its role as a World War II canteen, the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot and Baggage Room was the home of the Dennison Depot Salvation Army Servicemen's Canteen, the third largest Salvation Army canteen in the country. These canteens were part of a world-wide effort to feed soldiers

and sailors on the home front and even near the battlefield. Almost 4,000 volunteers staffed the Dennison Canteen around the clock to serve 1.3 million men and women during the course of the war.

- In the early period of the war when news from the European and Pacific theaters was often discouraging, volunteer efforts on the home front were crucial in boosting morale. Staffed by volunteers, the Dennison Canteen is one of the best extant illustrations of these volunteer efforts.

**Integrity:**

- The Pennsylvania Railroad Depot and Baggage Room in Dennison, Ohio, consists of two masonry buildings connected by a wood-enclosed freight platform. The freight platform that connects the two buildings was originally open on the sides, but was enclosed with wood siding and freight doors sometime in the 1950s.
- The depot building is basically a rectangular, one and one-half story, gable roofed building that served as both a passenger and freight station on the Pennsylvania Railroad's Panhandle main line between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Columbus, Ohio. The replication of the gabled dormers and corbelled brick chimneys was completed in 1998 using historic photographs for guidance.
- Interior floor plans are largely unaltered. The lobby office for the museum is new, but the enclosure was designed to be reversible and not obstruct window views. The original ticket agent's office has been converted to restrooms but the windows and original iron exterior and interior bars remain in place. The depot presently boasts a restaurant in the location of the original restaurant.
- The baggage building, erected ca. 1912, is similar in design to the depot but its brackets are not as ornate, the roof is hipped, and the trackside and street elevations are dominated by large, centrally positioned wood freight doors. It is largely unchanged since the period of significance.

**Owner of Property:** City of Dennison, Ohio

**Acreage of Property:** Less than one acre.

**Origins of Nomination:** The contractor who prepared the National Register nomination for the staff of the Dennison Railroad Museum also prepared the NHL nomination.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Designation will recognize one of the best preserved sites associated with volunteerism and the home front during World War II. The site is currently a museum and designation as a National Historic Landmark will undoubtedly raise understanding of the story of the American home front during World War II.
- Support for the Dennison Railroad Museum is widespread in the local community and designation of the depot will ensure not only the preservation of this site but also increase

the visibility of this site among an even broader constituency.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:** Designation. Mr. Hoyos moved, Dr. Odo seconded; unanimous approval.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of 11/10/10):**

Laura Milarcik, Site Director, Historic Schoenbrunn Village, New Philadelphia, Ohio  
Diane and Jeanne Destefani, New Philadelphia, Ohio  
William R. Bell, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
C. Larry Beaver, Washington, DC  
Richard L. Zeimer, Vancouver, Washington  
Patricia Cahaney, President, Amityville Historical Society, New York  
John Baher  
Tony Danzo, Dennison, Ohio  
Michael J. Connor, Dover, Ohio  
Cheri Jackson, Camas, Washington  
Robert D. Mc Carthy, CIC, President, New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
Robert F. Michels, Vice President, The First National Bank of Dennison  
Andy Verhoff, Unit Manager & Local History Coordinator, Columbus, Ohio  
Richard C. Snee, Birmingham, Michigan  
Liz Flick, State and Regional Coordinator, National League of POW/MIA Families, Columbus, Ohio  
Joe Schiavoni, State Senator, 33<sup>rd</sup> District, Columbus, Ohio  
Greg L. DiDonato, Executive Director, Cambridge, Ohio  
Joseph B. DeMonte, President, Rotary Club of Dennison, Ohio  
Michael Felmlee, 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Reenactors, Living History Organization, McKean, Pennsylvania  
William J. and Ruth A. Rush, Cave Creek, Arizona  
Charles F. Dierkes, CET  
Betty Ulrich Cooper, Renton, Washington  
Brad L. Hillyer, Connolly, Hillyer, Lindsay & Ong, Inc., Newcomerstown, Ohio  
Joshua E. O'Farrell, State Representative, 96<sup>th</sup> House District, Columbus, Ohio  
Teri-Edwards, Executive Director, Uhrichsville, Ohio  
Buck Feters, Ellisville, Missouri  
Rick Reiger, Mayor, City of Uhrichsville, Ohio  
Donald H. Korth, Medina, Ohio  
Peg Kiser, New Philadelphia, Ohio  
Patricia Johnson, Dennison Village Council Member, Ohio  
Mary Lee McClave, Uhrichsville, Ohio  
Dr. Andrea Tiktin-Fanti



Blair A. Hillyer, President & Chief Executive Officer, The First National Bank of Dennison, Ohio  
Kerry Metzger, Jim Seldenright, Chris Abbuhl, Tuscarawas County Commissioners, New Philadelphia, Ohio  
James R. Ballway  
David M. Wheeler, American Electric Power, Canton, Ohio  
Donald A. Selby, Marlboro Volunteers Inc., Military History Group, North Canton, Ohio  
Marjorie J. Shelley, Uhrichsville, Ohio  
William R. Huss, Ph.D., Executive Director and Board Chair, Law, Reed, Huss Farm Foundation, Wayland, Massachusetts  
Michael R. Taylor, Mayor, City of New Philadelphia, Ohio  
Scott Robinson, President/CEO, United Way of Tuscarawas County, Ohio  
Joseph S. Bachman, P.E., P.S., Tuscarawas County Engineer, New Philadelphia, Ohio  
Tim Burns, Westfield Center, Ohio  
Brenda Parrish  
Teri Edwards, Mayor, Village of Dennison, Ohio  
James W. Heakin, Uhrichsville, Ohio  
Burt Logan, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Ohio  
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd M. Rose, Buffalo, New York  
Board and Staff, Tuscarawas County Convention & Visitors Bureau, New Philadelphia, Ohio  
George V. Voinovich, U.S. Senator, Ohio

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**